World Bank's Report On Children

2102. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether her Ministry have expressed doubts over the World Bank's report that child malnutrition is a risk factor for 22.4 per cent of India's total burden of disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government do not have the facility to track and monitor the efficiency of its mother an infant healthcare projects;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the ICDS is serving no useful purpose in mapping a child's growth and those who can't visit an anganwadi centre are beyond coverage; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the comments of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. (c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, growth monitoring of the children under six years is undertaken periodically at Anganwadi Centres. Children identified as severely malnourished (falling under Grade III & IV categories) are provided double ration under supplementary nutrition component of the Scheme.

In pursuance of Government's commitment as enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme and in compliance of the direction of the Supreme Court in PIL filed by the Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties, the ICDS Scheme has been expanded to cover 466 additional Projects and 1.88 lakh anganwadi centres in 2005-06. Further expansion to increase the outreach of the Scheme to hitherto uncovered areas is also under active consideration of the Government. With these measures, outreach of the scheme would increase brining more and more beneficiaries, within the ambit of the scheme.

During the period from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2006, number of Supplementary Nutrition beneficiaries, has increased from 387.84 lakh to 562.18 lakh. Similarly, during the same period, number of Pre-school beneficiaries has increased from 188.02 lakh to 244.92 lakh.